

CANADA'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUNDS

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Gov. Doc. Canada
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Banff



BANFF, JASPER, WATERTON LAKES,
YOHO, KOOTENAY, GLACIER, AND
MT. REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARKS

The National Parks of Canada



AMONG CANADA'S greatest tourist attractions are her National Parks, areas of outstanding beauty and interest which have been set aside by statute for public use. Originally established to maintain the primitive beauty and wonders of the landscape, they are also now conserving the native wild life of the country, and preserving sites of national historic interest. As recreational areas, too, their value is immeasurable, for they provide, in ideal surroundings, unequalled opportunities for the enjoyment of outdoor life.

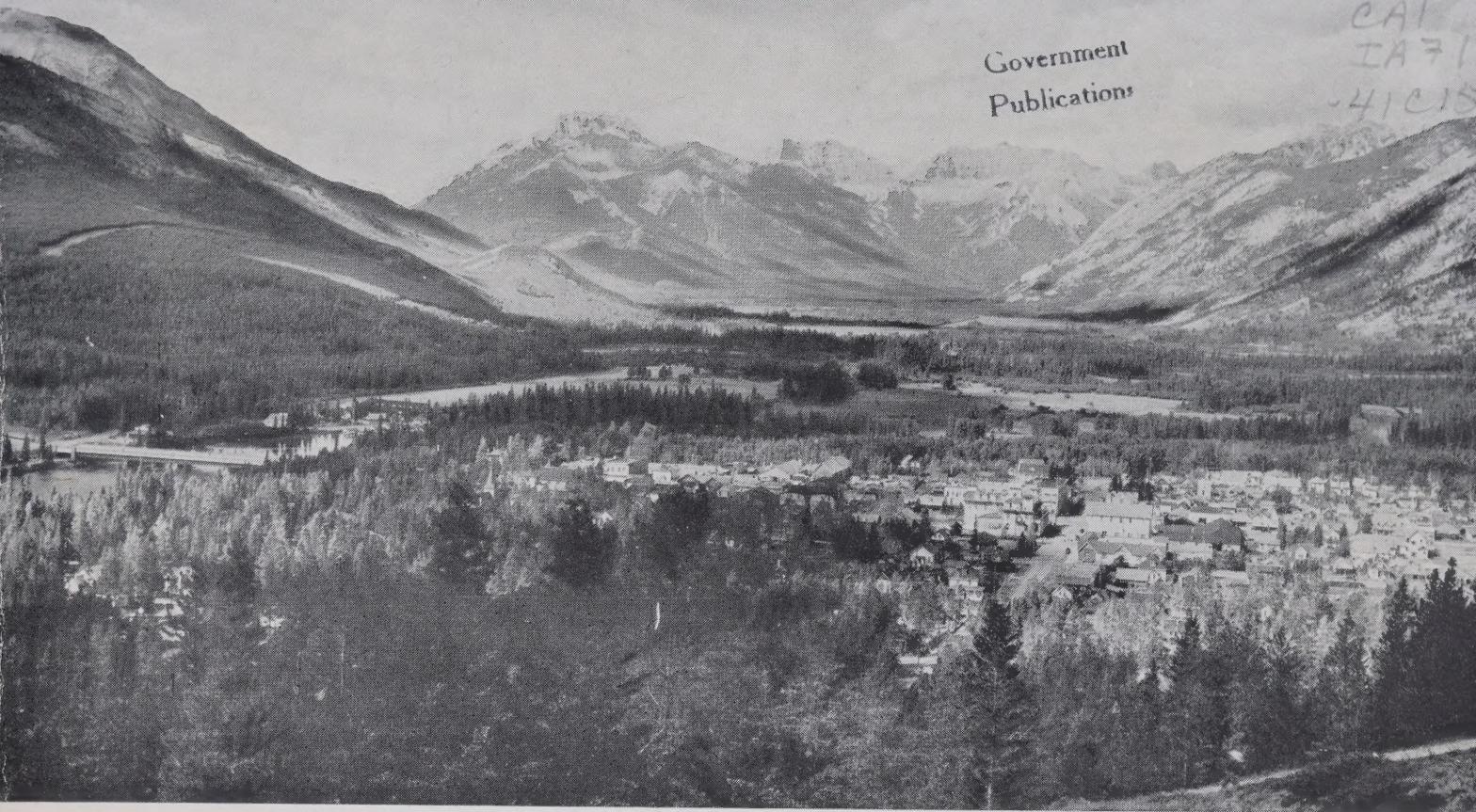
Canada's national park system was instituted more than fifty years ago, when a small area surrounding hot mineral springs at Banff in the Rocky Mountains was set aside in 1885 as a public possession. Other additions in the region formed the nucleus of the great chain of national playgrounds which now stretches across the Dominion from the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia to the Selkirk Mountains in British Columbia.

In these areas may be enjoyed the attractions of majestic mountain ranges, beautiful valleys, sparkling lakes, sandy beaches, tumbling streams, green forests, and picturesque stretches by the sea. As wild life sanctuaries, the national parks are also serving as vast outdoor museums, where the fauna and flora may be seen and studied in its natural state.

For purposes of description, the National Parks of Canada may be grouped in three main divisions—the large scenic and recreational parks in the mountains of Western Canada; the scenic, recreational, and wild animal parks of the Prairie Provinces; and the parks in Eastern Canada, which come under scenic, recreational, and historic classes.

In these pages will be found descriptions of the national parks in the first group—areas which lie within the great mountain regions of Alberta and British Columbia. In the "Rockies" and "Selkirks" as they are generally known, are regions of superb alpine grandeur. Towering peaks, gleaming glaciers, awesome canyons, shining waterfalls, and lakes that sparkle in emerald and agate settings have earned for this Canadian mountainland the name of "Fifty Switzerlands in One."

Owing to space limitations, the information provided in this booklet is necessarily of a general nature. Additional information, however, concerning any of these parks is available in folder form, and may be obtained from the Park Superintendents or from the National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, Canada.



Looking West Up the Bow River Valley from Banff

BANFF NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

BANFF NATIONAL PARK in Alberta is the oldest, as well as the second largest of Canada's National Playgrounds. It was established in 1885, and contains an area of 2,585 square miles. Situated on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, the park extends from the rolling foothills on the east to the continental divide on the west, and includes regions of scenic grandeur probably unsurpassed in the world.

Among its great mountain ranges distinct in character from the Selkirk Mountains to the west are hundreds of lofty peaks, the snow-capped summits of which pierce the clouds. Between the ranges are beautiful valleys, mantled with green forests and coursed by streams or set with sparkling lakes. In the northern part of the park, straddling the great divide of the Rockies, lies the vast Columbia Ice-field, a remnant of the Ice Age.

The park also includes the famous resorts of Banff and Lake Louise, known the world over for the beauty of their settings. From these points radiate systems of fine motor roads and saddle-pony trails, which lead to principal points of interest, and also penetrate regions of almost primeval wilderness. Adjoining Banff Park on the north is Jasper National Park, and to the west in British Columbia are Yoho and Kootenay National Parks, all linked by railway or highway to form a vast playground where new wonders are unfolded every mile.

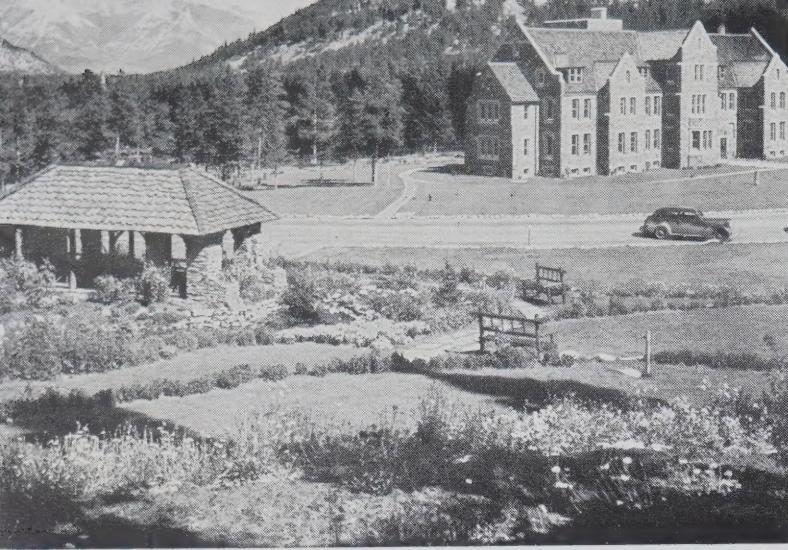
Early History of the Park

More than a century has passed since the beauties of Banff and the surrounding region were first glimpsed by the white man. While it is probable that David Thompson entered what is now the park by way of the Red Deer River in 1800, the first recorded visit to the site of Banff itself was made in 1841.

That year, in August, Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, penetrated the Bow River Valley from the east, passing Lake Minnewanka and Cascade Mountain. Ascending Healy Creek, he crossed the summit of the Rocky Mountains by Simpson Pass.

Reverend Robert Terrill Rundle, Wesleyan missionary to Indian tribes of the Northwest, camped by the Bow River in the vicinity of the mountains near Banff in 1841. Another missionary, Father Pierre Jean de Smet, in 1845 crossed the Rocky Mountains from the west by way of White Man's Pass.

In 1858 and 1859 Sir James Hector, geologist for the Palliser expedition, explored the region. Hector discovered the Kicking Horse Pass, which later came into use as the route of rail and highway transportation across the summit of the Rockies. The pass and river received their name from an accident suffered by Hector near Wapta Falls. Hector also explored most of the territory now traversed by the Banff-Jasper Highway.



Administration Building from Cascades Rock Garden



*Cascade Mountain Towers Above the Town of Banff
(C.P.R. Photo)*

Discovery of the Hot Springs

The discovery of hot mineral springs on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain during the construction of the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway was instrumental in attracting attention to this section of the Rockies. Although mentioned by Hector in his diary entry of August 21, 1859, the springs apparently were not actually located until 1883 by workmen engaged in railway construction.

To preserve the site from uncontrolled exploitation, the Government of Canada in 1885 set aside an area of 10 square miles to ensure that the surroundings would be in keeping with plans to make the region a first class tourist resort. Travellers over the newly con-

structed railway line were so impressed with the magnificence of the scenery that the Government was urged to establish a national park in the vicinity. Accordingly, in 1887, an area of 260 square miles was set aside by Act of Parliament as Rocky Mountains—now Banff—National Park, thereby creating the first unit in Canada's system of National Parks. This area was later extended to include its present proportions which cover 2,585 square miles.

How to Reach the Park

Banff National Park is accessible by railway and motor highway. It is served by the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the main stations are Banff and Lake Louise. Rail connections may also be made from many points in the United States. Visitors may travel by air to Calgary where railway, bus, and automobile transportation are available to Banff, 85 miles distant.

The western section of the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) crosses the park from east to west, connecting up with the provincial highway systems of Alberta and British Columbia. From the east, the approach is by way of the City of Calgary; from the west, an approach can be made from Vancouver and intermediate points, via Revelstoke and Yoho National Park. Approach from the northeast may be made through Jasper over the new Banff-Jasper Highway (1A).

Connections with points southwest in Canada and the Pacific States may be made over a hard-surfaced route from the International Boundary at Kingsgate, B.C., through Cranbrook to Radium Hot Springs. From this point the route is completed over the Banff-Windermere Highway (1B) through Kootenay National Park to Banff. From Glacier National Park, Montana, a direct hard-surfaced route leads to Banff by way of the Chief Mountain International Highway through Waterton Lakes National Park, and thence over Provincial Highways 6, 3, 2, and 1, via Pincher,



Castle Mountain from Castle Forks



The Pool at Upper Hot Springs



The "Mountie" is a Familiar Sight at Banff

Macleod, and Calgary. The main approaches by highway and railway are indicated on the map which appears on page 32 of this booklet.

The Administrative Headquarters

Situated in the green valley of the Bow River, completely surrounded by mountains, the little town of Banff contains the administrative headquarters of the park, and is also the main outfitting centre for motor, trail, and hiking trips. As a government townsite, it possesses many interesting features. Its streets are broad and well kept, and its public services include electric light, water and sewer systems, hospitals, churches, schools, banks, theatre, stores, hotels, public baths, and a museum. In addition to garages and service stations, there are several transportation companies and outfitters.

The Administration Building is situated at the southern end of Banff Avenue, facing Cascade Mountain, and contains the office of the park superintendent and the post office. Near the north end of Bow River Bridge on Banff Avenue is the Government Information Bureau where visitors may obtain maps, literature and information concerning accommodation, travel, and points of interest.

Accommodation

Excellent accommodation—ranging from the modest to the most luxurious type—is available in Banff National Park. The Banff Springs Hotel and the Chateau Lake Louise, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, provide the ultimate in mountain hotel accommodation. Magnificently situated, both hotels contain fine appointments, including ball-rooms, heated swimming pools, tennis courts, and complete transportation systems. Several other hotels, three bungalow cabin camps, tourist cabins, furnished cottages, and rooms are available at Banff. Hotels, bungalow camps, and mountain lodges, equipped with cabins, are available at Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and many other points in the park. Complete

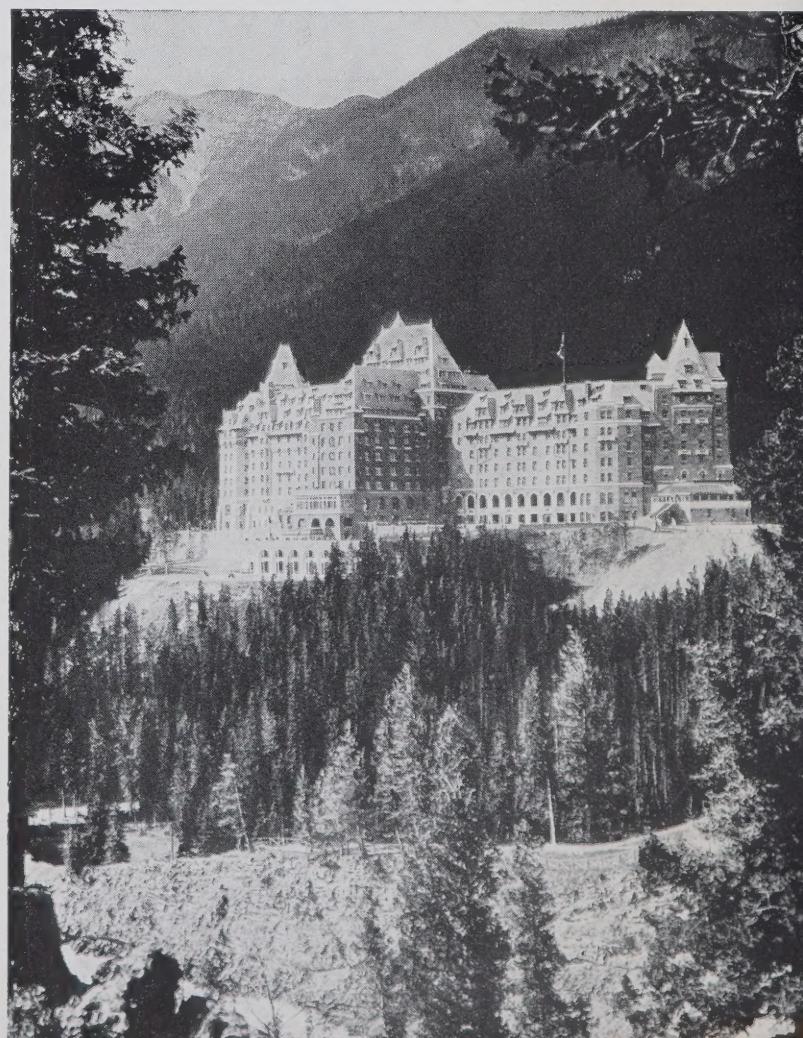
information concerning accommodations can be obtained from the Banff Information Bureau.

For visitors carrying their own camping equipment, the public camp-ground on the slopes of Tunnel Mountain at Banff offers many facilities. Provided with running water, electric light, camp-stoves, tables and shelters, the camp-ground is equipped to service auto cabin trailers. Camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are also located at Johnston Canyon, Castle Mountain, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, and at points along the Banff-Jasper Highway.

Points of Interest at Banff

Numerous points of interest await the visitor in Banff and vicinity. Surrounding the Administration Building are grounds which have been

Banff Springs Hotel





*Along the Trail at
Lake Louise
(C.P.R. Photo)*

landscaped to form the Cascades Rock Garden. Constructed in a series of small plateaus, connected by small cascades which tumble from pool to pool, the garden contains a profusion of flowers, plants and shrubs. Rustic bridges, pergolas and pavilions, connected by flag-stone walks, invite visitors to stroll through this delightful area.

Near the Bow River Bridge is the Government museum, with its well arranged exhibits of the fauna, flora, and geology of the region. On the banks of Bow River, close to the museum, Central Park forms an ideal place for picnicking. In addition to tables, benches, and outdoor stoves, there are amusements for children. A two-mile ride brings the visitor to the wild animal paddocks, which contain buffalo, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Bow Falls, a visual gem, is within easy walking distance of Banff, as are the Hoodoos, queer eroded pillars of glacial clay on the banks

of the Bow River. The Observatory Building, located on the summit of Sulphur Mountain, is accessible by a well-graded trail, and from this point may be obtained magnificent views of Banff, the Bow Valley, and surrounding peaks.

Numerous short drives in the vicinity of Banff provide delightful outings. The Tunnel Mountain drive is a favourite short trip, and from vantage points remarkable views of Banff, the Bow, and Spray Valleys are presented. The drive up Stoney Squaw Mountain to the ski hill on Mount Norquay also opens up new and impressive vistas. Once a year Banff celebrates its "Indian Days" when several hundred Indians congregate in the vicinity to conduct their tribal sports and festivities.

The Banff Hot Springs

Outstanding among the attractions at Banff are its hot mineral springs, which, for therapeutic qualities, are believed to equal any on the

Page 4

Mount Lefroy and Plain of Six Glaciers



Modern Highways Penetrate the Mountain Valleys



*Moraine Lake in the
Valley of the Ten Peaks
(C.P.R. Photo)*



continent. Of the five main springs, three have been developed, and are accessible by fine roads. At the Cave and Basin springs, one mile from Banff, a bath-house and two outdoor pools are available for public use. The larger pool, complete with promenade, sun-room, and glass windows, is a magnificent structure. The smaller pool is suitable for children and non-swimmers.

An interesting feature adjacent to the pool is the cave, which is reached by an electrically-lighted passage. Shaped like a huge vase, this cave has been formed by the action of a subterranean hot spring which still bubbles up in the centre of a large pool.

The Upper Hot Springs bath-house and pool are situated two and a half miles from Banff on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain. This bath-house contains steam rooms, tub baths, plunges, and rest rooms. From the promenade overlooking the pool, too, may be obtained a magnificent

view of the surrounding mountains, valleys and streams. The use of the bath-houses, swimming pools, and other facilities, as well as bathing suit and towel, may be had on payment of a small fee.

The Lake Louise District

About 60 miles west of Banff lies Lake Louise, one of Nature's masterpieces. Set in a vast amphitheatre of lofty mountains this jewel-like lake is one of the most beautiful in the world. Its surface reflects marvellously the surrounding forest slopes, snow-capped peaks, and passing clouds, and its colour, responding to every change of light and breeze, changes from hour to hour. At the western end rises massive Mount Victoria draped with an immense glacier which forms a perfect backdrop for a marvellous scene.

Facing the lake is the luxurious Chateau Lake Louise, and a short distance east are several lodges, a bungalow camp, and camp-

Page 5

"Camping Out" in a Mountain Setting



Mule or Black-tailed Deer





ground. Lake Louise is an excellent base for hikes, trail and motor trips, and for mountain climbing. Canoeing and fishing on the lake may also be enjoyed. Popular excursions on foot or by saddle-pony include those to the Plain of Six Glaciers at the western end of the lake, and to the "Lakes in the Clouds"—Mirror and Agnes—which lie in cirques 6,800 feet above sea level.

Another notable point within half an hour's drive of Lake Louise is Moraine Lake. It is situated in the Valley of the Ten Peaks, and is reached by a road which skirts the base of Mount Temple for several miles. Overshadowed by massive peaks which seem to touch the sky, the lake gleams in indescribable hues of sapphire and emerald. Moraine Lake Lodge and bungalows offer fine overnight accommodation.

North of Lake Louise, and accessible by the Banff-Jasper Highway, is a remarkable region of almost primeval beauty. It includes beautiful glacier-fed lakes and streams, immense peaks, and glaciers, and culminates in the Columbia Ice-field, a vast sea of snow and ice which lies on the shoulders of the mountains forming the continental divide.

Opportunities for Recreation

A year-round resort, Banff National Park offers a variety of recreations. Favourite summer sports include hiking, riding, climbing, boating, tennis, and golf. Miles of smooth dustless roads provide easy motoring through the mountain valleys and over the passes. In winter the snow-covered slopes offer remarkable skiing. Anglers have a wide choice of waters in which to fish.

Nearly a thousand miles of well kept trails lead to new adventures. Outfitters at Banff will supply guides, ponies, tents, and all necessary equipment for outings of this nature. Popular destinations include the Mount Assiniboine, Egypt Lakes, Skoki Valley, and Columbia Ice-field regions. Supervised four-day outings are held each year by the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

The Banff Springs golf course, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, has a superb setting. Laid out along the base of Mount Rundle in the Bow River Valley, it has four sets of tees for each hole, and provides a variety of play which beggars description. A fine club-house, pro shop, professional, and caddies are at the disposal of visitors.

Tennis may be enjoyed on the courts of the Banff Springs Hotel, or on the public courts located in the recreation ground near the Bow

*Top—A Pack Train Fording the Howse River
Centre—Canoeing on Echo Creek*

Bottom—Fly-casting at Marvel Lake (C.P.R. Photo)

River Bridge. Boating and canoeing on the Bow River and its back waters, Echo and Willow Creeks have a definite appeal. The mountains of Banff Park present a continual challenge to alpine climbers, and the Mount Assiniboine, Lake Louise, and Moraine Lake regions are often chosen by the Alpine Club of Canada for their annual camp. This organization also maintains a club-house at Banff.

Constant restocking of lakes and streams ensures good fishing for angling enthusiasts. Great Lake trout abound in Lake Minnewanka near Banff, and rainbow, cut-throat, Dolly Varden, and eastern brook trout found in many other scenic locations will test the skill of the expert and novice alike.

Banff has developed into an outstanding winter sports resort and is the centre of a vast territory where ski-ing lasts from December until April. Within sight of the town are the Mount Norquay slopes where championship downhill and slalom courses have been laid out, and a ski jump and lodge constructed. Farther afield, the Ptarmigan-Skoki, Sunshine, Lake Louise and Mount Assiniboine regions offer snow conditions comparable to the European Alps. Ski lodges, providing overnight accommodation, guides and instructors are available at these points, which are easily accessible from Banff or Lake Louise. Skating, curling and other winter sports reach their climax in a winter carnival held annually in Banff.

Wild Life

As the result of sanctuary conditions which prevail, wild life is abundant in Banff National Park. Within its boundaries will be found specimens of all big game native to the Rocky Mountains, including such picturesque animals as the Rocky Mountain or "bighorn" sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, and caribou. Mule deer, elk, black and grizzly bear, cougar, and coyote are also numerous. Bands of sheep are often observed along the park highways, and moose grub for tubers in the shallows of mountain lakes. Beaver, marten, marmot or "whistler" and other smaller species are in evidence.

Contrary to opinion, bird life is also numerous in the mountains, and includes many species native to western Canada. More than 500 varieties of wild flowers bloom in the valleys and on the uplands. Luxuriant forests of lodgepole pine, spruce, fir, and other varieties clothe the valleys and lower slopes, imparting a rich colouring to the sombre ranges. For the botanist, sportsman, lover of nature, or ordinary visitor, the park has an infinite variety of attractions almost too numerous to exhaust in a single season.

Top—*Skiers on Deception Pass*
Centre—*Climbers at Mount Assiniboine*
Bottom—*A Sporty Hole on the Banff Springs Golf Course*





Saskatchewan River Crossing, Below the Confluence of the Howse, Mistaya, and North Saskatchewan Rivers

THE BANFF-JASPER HIGHWAY

THE BANFF-JASPER HIGHWAY is one of the most recent additions to Canada's system of National Park highways. Opened for travel in 1940, it provides access to some of the finest scenic areas in the Canadian Rockies. Threading its way through the very heart of the mountains, within continual sight of massive peaks, beautiful lakes, and fast-flowing streams, it penetrates regions of primitive wilderness formerly reached only by trail. It

also links two of Canada's greatest playgrounds, Banff and Jasper National Parks, and, in a distance of 186 miles, provides direct highway connection between the world-famous resorts of Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper.

The Town of Banff may be regarded as the starting point of the new highway, which follows the valley of the Bow River northwestward, ascending gradually towards Lake Louise. Points of scenic beauty and interesting side-trips include Johnston Canyon, 16 miles from Banff; Castle Mountain, where the Banff-Windermere Highway branches off to Kootenay National Park; and Mount Temple, towering above the peaks to the west.

Near Lake Louise Station, 36½ miles from Banff, and three miles east of beautiful Lake Louise, the route leaves the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) and turns on to the Banff-Jasper Highway proper. The Bow River is followed to its source in Bow Lake, passing in turn Mount Hector, Hector Lake and the remarkable Crowfoot Glacier. Leaving Bow Lake, one of the scenic gems of the district, the road crosses the summit of Bow Pass (6,785 feet) and descends into the Mistaya River Valley.

Skirting the colourful Waterfowl Lakes, the highway winds around the base of Mount Murchison and crosses the North Saskatchewan below its confluence with the Howse and Mistaya Rivers. Continuing up the North Saskatchewan it passes the wide valley of the Alexandra River, which opens up on the west.

Next comes the ascent of the "Big Hill" from the North Saskatchewan Valley to

Nigel Creek Bridge



*Athabaska Glacier is
One of the Largest to
Issue from the Columbia
Ice-field*
(C.P.R. Photo)



Sunwapta Pass, which is accomplished by long easy switchbacks through rock cuttings and along the side of deep valleys. At the summit of the pass (6,675 feet) the visitor enters Jasper National Park. Within a distance of three miles he will find himself in a sea of mountains.

To the west are the great peaks, snow-capped and festooned with glaciers, that support on their shoulders the great Columbia Ice-field. This sea of snow and ice, estimated to be 150 square miles in area, represents the climax of glacial-ice deposits in the Canadian Rockies. Its melting glaciers form the source of streams, the waters of which find their way to the Pacific, Arctic, and Atlantic Oceans.

Between Snow Dome, hydrographic centre of the continent, and Mount Athabaska, lies the Athabaska Glacier, second largest to issue from the ice-field. Nearly four miles long, it is the source of the Sunwapta River, and may be approached to within a few yards by a spur road from the main highway. Visitors, if they desire, may easily set foot on the tongue of the glacier.

From Athabaska Glacier the road continues northward down the Sunwapta River, and, skirting a deep canyon by a series of switchbacks, drops several hundred feet in two miles. Near Sunwapta Falls a short side road provides access to this thundering cataract. A short distance past the falls the road swings into the Athabaska River Valley, and eventually reaches Athabaska Falls.

Flanked by mountain ranges on both sides the highway then follows the Whirlpool and Athabaska Rivers, joining the spectacular road from Mount Edith Cavell. About nine miles

past the junction, it enters the town of Jasper, headquarters of Jasper National Park.

Consisting mainly of long straight stretches and easy grades, few of which exceed eight per cent, the Banff-Jasper Highway provides delightful motoring. It possesses none of the hazards associated with mountain highways, and climatic conditions, it is expected, will permit tourist use of the route each year from June 1 to October 15. Overnight tourist accommodation is provided by chalets and bungalow camps situated at strategic locations.

The Highway Skirts Sunwapta Canyon





Jasper Lies in the Broad Athabasca River Valley

JASPER NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

NOTED FOR ITS ASSOCIATIONS with early exploration, Jasper National Park in Alberta is also the largest of seven great areas which have been set aside as national playgrounds in the mountains of Western Canada. The park embraces an area of 4,200 square miles in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, and includes regions of superb alpine beauty into which comparatively few visitors as yet have penetrated. A land of great distances, of mighty peaks, deep canyons, rushing rivers, and exquisite lakes, it is also one of the great wild life sanctuaries of the continent.

Adjoining Banff National Park on the south, Jasper National Park forms the northern part of a vast mountain kingdom which extends for more than 250 miles along the eastern slope of

the Rockies. The boundaries of Jasper Park enclose a series of lofty and almost parallel ranges running from southeast to northwest. The remarkable folds, upheavals, and faults in the rock strata are visible everywhere as are the evidences of erosion caused mainly by great glaciers which once filled the valleys. In the southern part of the park the mountains rise to tremendous heights, and their ice-crowned summits rise from the perpetual sea of snow and ice known as the Columbia Ice-field.

Cutting through the park from the southern boundary is the broad valley of the Athabasca River. As it winds northeasterly from its source in the melting glaciers of the Columbia Ice-field, this stream develops into one of the most important rivers of Canada's Northwest. The Athabasca Valley also forms an ideal route for travel. It is followed for many miles by the railway which crosses the park, and, with the valley of the Sunwapta River, it also provides an avenue for motor highway communication from south to north.

The Historic "Committee's Punch Bowl"



Early History of the Park

Few sections of the Canadian Rockies rival the Jasper region in historical associations, for through its mountain wilderness travelled the early explorers who opened up this section of Canada to the lucrative fur trade. Along the "Athabasca Trail"—as the route across the mountains was called—passed the cavalcade of adventurers, scientists, and fur traders on their way to and from the Pacific Coast.



Beautiful Maligne Lake is Surrounded by Mighty Peaks

The Athabasca Valley also figured in the struggle between rival companies for control of the traffic in furs within the mountains, which was ended in 1821 by the amalgamation of the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company under the name of the latter. The park owes its name to Jasper House, a trading post established about 1813 by the North West Company on the Athabasca River, which at one time was in charge of Jasper Hawes.

Among the first white men to visit what is now the park was David Thompson, famous explorer and geographer, who has left a fine record of his journeys. His crossing of Athabasca Pass in 1811 opened up a travel route followed for many years. Over the snowy summit in later years passed Gabriel Franchère and Ross Cox, among the survivors of the ill-fated trading post Astoria, established by John Jacob Astor at the mouth of the Columbia River; Father deSmet, Belgian missionary; David Douglas, Scottish botanist; and Paul Kane, artist.

On the summit of the pass is the "Committee's Punch Bowl," a small lake near which Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, treated his entourage to wine on the occasion of his crossing in 1824. About 1826, Athabasca Pass was abandoned as a travel route in favour of Yellowhead Pass, farther north. The latter was subsequently chosen by railway engineers as the most suitable route over the mountains when the railway line was built in 1911. Jasper National Park was established in 1907.

How to Reach the Park

Jasper National Park is accessible by railway and motor highway. It is served by the trans-

continental line of the Canadian National Railways, which provides a daily service from points east and west. The town of Jasper—a railway divisional point—is less than three days by rail from Montreal and Chicago, and only 18 hours from Vancouver.

Connections with the park may be made by motor highway from the south and northeast. A direct approach from Banff and Lake Louise in Banff National Park is provided by the Banff-Jasper Highway, a new route opened for travel in 1940. The Banff-Jasper Highway (1A) intersects the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) which crosses Banff National Park, and, with the aid of connecting provincial highways, links up with motor routes from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and points in the United States.

The park also may be reached from Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, over Provincial Highway No. 16, which enters the park from

Mount Kerkeslin from the Whirlpool River





Mount Fryatt and Athabasca River



*The Ramparts from Tonquin Valley
(C.N.R. Photo)*

the northeast. The distance from Edmonton to the park boundary is 203 miles, and from the boundary to the town of Jasper 32 miles. Edmonton is served by Trans-Canada Air Lines from points to the south, and this air service connects with others operating in Canada and the United States.

Townsite and Administrative Headquarters

Situated almost in the centre of the park is the little town of Jasper, which contains the administrative headquarters and forms a base for varied activities. An all-year resort, Jasper has a permanent population of about 1,500. The town possesses water, electric light, sewer, and telephone systems; postal and telegraph services are also available. Hotels, bungalow camps, restaurants, motion picture theatre,

churches, hospital, schools and playgrounds provide the comforts of community life. In addition to garages and service stations, there are several outfitters and transportation companies available to those desiring to make excursions by saddle-pony or motor.

The Administration Building is situated on Connaught Drive, nearly opposite the railway station. It contains the office of the park superintendent, and an Information Bureau where visitors may obtain maps, literature, and information concerning accommodation, travel, and the attractions of the park.

Tourist Accommodation

Jasper National Park contains accommodation to suit almost every taste and purse. Within the town itself are three hotels. Three miles distant by highway is Jasper Park Lodge, a luxurious bungalow-type hotel, operated by the Canadian National Railways. It consists of a main lodge and numerous well equipped bungalows of varying size, beautifully situated on the shores of Lac Beauvert. Its appointments include dining-room, ball-room, outdoor swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, and complete transportation system.

Situated within a few minutes drive of Jasper are two fine bungalow camps containing house-keeping cabins, and farther afield are chalets, bungalow camps, and tent cabin camps, all accessible by highway or trail. Rooms are available in the town of Jasper, and tea-houses are operated during the summer at Pyramid Lake, Maligne Canyon, and Mount Edith Cavell. Complete information concerning accommodations may be obtained from the Park Information Bureau.

For visitors carrying their own camping equipment, public camp-grounds have been established on the banks of the Athabasca River about a mile and a half east of Jasper; at Patricia Lake, three miles distant; and at Miette Hot Springs, 38 miles from Jasper. These camp-grounds are equipped with shelters, stoves, tables, and other conveniences.



Bungalows at Jasper Park Lodge (C.N.R. Photo)



Wild Flowers Bloom Near the Eternal Snows



*Rocky Mountain or "Bighorn" Sheep
(Photo C. H. D. Clarke)*

Jasper and Vicinity

Visitors to Jasper will find many points of interest within easy reach of the town, either afoot, by saddle-pony, or by motor. Beautiful Lac Beauvert, four miles distant across the Athabaska Valley, is accessible by highway or pony trail. A visual gem, its jade-green waters reflect the surroundings with the clarity of a mirror. Among the evergreens on its landscaped shores is Jasper Park Lodge and its adjacent bungalows. From the grounds, magnificent views may be obtained, including vistas of Pyramid Mountain to the west, and the snow-capped summit of Mount Edith Cavell to the south.

From Jasper Park Lodge, or from Jasper, a good road may be followed to Maligne Canyon and Medicine Lake. The route skirts several small lakes, including Annette and Edith, and ascends the slopes of Signal Mountain by long easy switchbacks. Maligne Canyon is a remarkable example of erosion. The gorge, 188 feet in depth, has been cut through the rock strata by the action of the Maligne River. Interesting pot holes, carved by water and revolving boulders, are also to be seen.

Another pleasant drive brings the visitor to Pyramid Lake which lies at the foot of Pyramid Mountain. This route passes Patricia Lake camp-ground, and also provides fine views of the peaks and ranges on the eastern side of the Athabaska River. The drive up the Miette River Valley past the ski run on the Whistlers Mountain has many scenic attractions. Excursions by saddle-pony or on foot may be taken to the summits of Signal Mountain, the Whistlers Mountain, and Old Fort Point, which overlooks the site of Henry House, an early North West Company trading post.

Motor Drives in the Park

Other fine motor roads in the park open up to the visitor a wonderland of scenic beauty. Deservedly popular is the drive to Mount Edith Cavell, 18 miles from Jasper one way. The route follows that of the old "Athabaska Trail" for nine miles south along the Banff-

Jasper Highway, then branches off to ascend the Astoria River Valley by easy switchbacks. The views everywhere are magnificent, culminating with the spectacle of towering Mount Edith Cavell and its spectacular Angel Glacier. The latter owes its name to lateral wings which join the main glacier and give the appearance of a flying figure. From a tea-house at the foot of the glacial moraine a trail may be followed to the foot of the glacier.

From its junction with the Mount Edith Cavell road the Banff-Jasper Highway may be followed south to the Columbia Ice-field and on through Sunwapta Pass into Banff National Park. This drive is the finest in the park, and not only provides access to Athabaska and Sunwapta Falls, but affords breath-taking views of the giant peaks which surround the

The Angel Glacier on Mount Edith Cavell





Trail Riders on Old Fort Point
(C.N.R. Photo)



Casting for Trout in Maligne River

Columbia Ice-field. A short description of this drive, from the opposite direction, will be found on pages 8 and 9 of this booklet.

Miette Hot Springs

Miette Hot Springs, 38 miles from Jasper, are reached by way of the Jasper-Edmonton Highway. This route skirts the Athabasca River where it widens into Jasper Lake, and turning eastwards from the former townsite of Pocahontas, passes the interesting Punchbowl Falls. Crossing a low divide, the route then ascends Fiddle River before turning up Sulphur Creek Valley.

The waters of the springs, which issue from the rocks along the banks of Sulphur Creek, are among the hottest in the Rockies, and have a wide reputation for their medicinal properties. A modern bathing establishment, including a large outdoor pool, and bath-house with dressing-rooms and promenades, is available to visitors on payment of a small fee. Near the bath-house will be found parking areas, a

public camp-ground, and a modern bungalow camp with which is operated a store, dining-room, and post office.

Trail Trips in the Park

Dozens of beauty spots not accessible by motor road may be reached over the park trails. From Jasper or Jasper Park Lodge the visitor may enjoy outings of less than a day's duration, or longer trips requiring overnight accommodation. Saddle ponies, with or without guides, may be rented in Jasper or at the Lodge.

The goal of all ambitious riders is Maligne Lake, situated 32 miles from Jasper. Lying between two great ranges, this body of water, 16 miles long, combines the beauty of the European Alps and Norwegian fiords. The upper or eastern end of the lake is surrounded by mighty peaks which rise almost sheer from the water's edge, and the shores are clad with heavy growths of evergreens. The waters are a vivid green shade, and add an additional tone to the already colourful surroundings.



The Bath-house and Pool at Miette Hot Springs



The Columbia Ice-field from the Banff-Jasper Highway
(C.N.R. Photo)

The trip to the lake may be accomplished in three stages. The first is by motor road to Medicine Lake, a distance of 18 miles. Medicine Lake may be crossed from end to end by motor-boat, or skirted by trail. From the eastern end of Medicine Lake a good trail leads along the tumbling Maligne River to Maligne Lake. The return trip may be made over a different route if desired, by way of Shovel Pass and the Sky-line Trail. Chalet and camp accommodation, as well as boats, are available at Medicine and Maligne Lakes.

The Amethyst Lakes in Tonquin Valley, 20 miles from Jasper, are also popular objectives for riders. The lakes lie at the foot of The Ramparts Range of the Rockies, and are noted for their trout fishing. They may be reached by the Portal Creek Trail, the Astoria River Trail from the Edith Cavell Road, or Meadow Creek Trail from the Geikie Road. Longer trips also may be made by arrangement with outfitters and guides to Athabaska Pass, the



A Ski Camp in Eremite Valley
(C.N.R. Photo)

Brazeau Lake, Snake Indian River, and Mount Robson regions.

Opportunities for Recreation

Jasper National Park is a centre for outdoor recreation. Bathing and swimming may be enjoyed at Lakes Annette and Edith where dressing-room accommodation will be found, and in swimming pools with heated water at Jasper Park Lodge and Miette Hot Springs. Canoeing on Lac Beauvert is a favoured pastime, especially in the evenings, and boats are also available at Lakes Edith, Medicine, Maligne, and at Pyramid Lake. Numerous short hikes are available to visitors who like to do their exploring on foot. Tennis may be played at Jasper Park Lodge, and on the courts of a private club in Jasper.

The golf course at Jasper Park Lodge is one of the finest on the continent, and includes 18 sporty holes, no two of which are identical in character. Situated at the base of Signal Mountain along the shores of Lac Beauvert,



*Pyramid Mountain
from the Golf Course at
Jasper Park Lodge*
(C.N.R. Photo)



Evening on Maligne Lake

the course also provides delightful views of the alpine surroundings. A club-house, professional, caddies, and golfing equipment are at the disposal of visitors.

The lakes and streams of the park are well stocked with game fish, including cutthroat, rainbow, Dolly Varden, Kamloops, and eastern brook trout. The Medicine-Maligne lake system has a world-wide reputation for the fighting qualities and abundance of its speckled trout. The Amethyst Lakes in Tonquin Valley, Jacques, Pyramid, Patricia, Caledonia, and Dorothy Lakes are also noted for their fishing.

Jasper National Park offers unlimited scope for mountain climbing. Hundreds of peaks, many of them rising to heights of 10,000 feet or more, present a continual challenge. The Tonquin Valley, Fryatt Valley, Columbia Ice-field, and Maligne Lake regions contain many negotiable peaks, and there are several in the vicinity of Jasper which are comparatively

Athabasca Falls



easy to ascend. The Alpine Club of Canada holds its annual camp in Jasper National Park every other year.

Winter sports, including ski-ing, may be enjoyed under ideal conditions. A fine downhill ski-ing course has been constructed on the slopes of the Whistlers Mountain, and remarkable snow conditions also prevail in the Tonquin Valley, Columbia Ice-field, and Maligne Lake regions. Skating and curling are also numbered among winter sports at Jasper.

A Wild Life Sanctuary

As one of the greatest wild life sanctuaries on the continent, Jasper National Park provides a home for numerous big and small game species. In their natural surroundings may be seen Rocky Mountain or "bighorn" sheep, mule deer and stately elk. Black and brown bear are numerous, especially around the town of Jasper, and Rocky Mountain goat and moose frequent regions tapped by the park highways. Grizzly bear, caribou, cougar, and many of the small fur-bearing species also find a home in the park. Bird life is also numerous and interesting.

Wild flowers grow throughout the park in colourful abundance. They will be found along the highways, in the valleys, on the slopes, and even at the edge of eternal snows. The most prolific forest growth in the park is lodgepole pine. Spruce, aspen and black poplar, Douglas fir, Englemann spruce, and alpine larch also thrive. In a magnificent setting, the wild life of the park offers an unfailing source of interest and study to the photographer, artist, and naturalist.



Mount Cleveland from Upper Waterton Lake

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK is one of the most colourful and charming of Canada's Mountain Playgrounds. Situated in the southwest corner of Alberta, it lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains where they approach the International Boundary line, and contains an area of 220 square miles. The park also adjoins Glacier National Park in Montana, with which it forms the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

The mountains within the park have been shaped by ancient glaciers and erosion from rocks that are among the oldest in the Rockies. The glaciers have long since disappeared, but their sculpturing effects are still visible in many places. At the head of many valleys are great cirques or amphitheatres—now occupied by rock-rimmed lakes and tarns—with the marks of ice-chiselling clearly visible on almost sheer walls.

A characteristic of the mountains is their remarkable colouring. Outcroppings of reddish shales darkening to wine and purple, green, and tawny gold give to the peaks a warm and brilliant tone. Some have sharp pyramids formed of yellow shales which glisten in the sunrise and sunset, while others have summits and slopes banded with a bright red.

An outstanding feature of the park is Upper Waterton Lake, from which the park takes its name. Seven miles long and nearly a mile wide, the lake occupies a deep trench between two

high mountain ranges. From the northern end one may gaze down its entire length and admire the splendid peaks which rise from the water's edge. The lake is crossed by the International Boundary, and its beauties are thus shared both by Canada and the United States.

As a result of legislation enacted by the Governments of Canada and the United States in 1932, Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks were proclaimed the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. This action was inspired by a desire to commemorate permanently the peace and goodwill which has existed between the peoples of the adjoining countries for more than 100 years. Each section of the Peace Park, however, retains its individuality and separate administrative rights.

Looking South from Mount Crandell





Cameron Creek Falls

Early History of the Park

Once the ancient hunting ground of the Indians, the region surrounding Waterton Lakes was first visited by the white man in 1858, when Lieutenant Thomas Blakiston crossed South Kootenay Pass at the head of Blakiston Brook. Blakiston was in charge of a section of the Palliser Expedition which explored Western Canada between 1857 and 1860. The name Waterton is believed to have been given to the lakes by Blakiston in honour of Charles Waterton, English naturalist, ornithologist, and traveller.

Before the end of the last century the Waterton Lakes had become a popular camping and fishing resort, and to preserve the region as a public possession the Government of Canada in 1895 set aside a surrounding area

of 54 square miles as a national park. Later its boundaries were extended to include the present area. Prominent in the movement to establish the park was "Kootenai" Brown, first white settler in the district, who eventually served as acting superintendent.

Means of Access

Waterton Lakes National Park is accessible by motor highway. From the east, approach may be made over Provincial Highway No. 3 from Lethbridge to Pincher, and from there south over Highway No. 6 to the park. An alternative route is provided by Highway No. 5 through Cardston. From the north, a hard-surfaced route is available from Edmonton and Calgary over Highway No. 2 to Macleod, and thence over Highways 3 and 6 to the park. From British Columbia on the west, approach may be made over Highways 3 and 6.

The most direct approach from the United States is by way of the Chief Mountain International Highway, which links Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks. This highway intersects United States Highway No. 89 a few miles north of Babb, Montana, and crossing the northeast corner of Glacier Park, enters Waterton Lake Park at Chief Mountain customs port. This highway also forms a link in a direct hard-surfaced route from the International Boundary to Banff and Lake Louise.

The nearest rail points are Pincher, situated on a main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway 39 miles from the park townsite, and Cardston, also served by the C.P.R. which is 35 miles distant. Both points have a bus service to the park. A bus service is also operated between points in Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks.

Park Townsite and Headquarters

The village of Waterton Park is the park townsite and a centre of activities. It occupies a wide flat at the northwest end of Upper Waterton Lake in the shadow of Mount Crandell. In the business section will be found stores, restaurants, drug store, hotels, garages



and service stations. A motion picture theatre and dance hall are operated in summer. The townsite possesses water, electric light, and sewer systems; postal and long distance telephone services are also available. Trees and flower beds set out on the boulevards enhance their appearance.

A resident superintendent supervises the administration of the park. The Administration Building is situated near the centre of the townsite, and contains an Information Bureau where literature, maps, and information concerning the park's attractions may be obtained. The park is a summer resort only, and the tourist season extends approximately from May 1 to September 30.

Accommodation in the Park

Tourist accommodation in the park is provided by several hotels, bungalow camps, apartment and boarding houses, and rooms in private homes. The Prince of Wales Hotel, operated by the Glacier Park Hotel Company, offers high class accommodation. Built in Swiss chalet style, it commands a magnificent view of Upper Waterton Lake. Three smaller hotels are operated in the townsite. A bungalow camp at the south end of the townsite, and another at Cameron Lake, 10 miles distant, offer good cabin accommodation.

The public camp-ground, situated near the townsite of Upper Waterton Lake, provides accommodation to visitors carrying their own camping equipment. Camp shelters, equipped with stoves, tables, benches, running water, and electric light, as well as the use of community buildings, are available on payment of a small fee. Camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are also available at other points in the park.

Opportunities for Recreation

Many forms of recreation await the visitor to the park. Within the townsite are a children's playground, softball and baseball diamonds, and public tennis courts. Delightful bathing and swimming may be enjoyed in the warm waters of Lake Linnet, located half a mile



Mount Blakiston from Red Rock Bluff

north of the townsite. A privately operated pool is also available in the townsite. Boating on Upper Waterton Lake offers an excellent means of viewing the beauty of the surrounding mountains. A power boat, operated between Waterton Park and Goathaunt Landing in Glacier Park, makes trips several times daily up and down the lake at nominal charges. Small boats are available for hire at the townsite docks.

Excellent fishing is to be had in the lakes and streams of the park. Upper Waterton Lake contains great lake trout which run to good size, as well as cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain whitefish. Rainbow, Dolly Varden, and eastern brook trout are also caught in park waters. The Government fish hatchery, situated on Highway No. 6 about six miles

Bathers at Lake Linnet



On the Akamina Highway



north of the townsite, forms an interesting point for visitors. Fish rearing ponds in the townsite are also open to inspection.

Golf may be enjoyed on the park course which is situated on the rolling slopes east of Mount Crandell. The course has 18 interesting holes, from which fine views of the surrounding peaks are available at all times. For a nominal fee, golfers may have the use of the course, as well as a small club-house situated near the first tee.

Trail Rides and Hikes

One of the most satisfactory ways of viewing the wonders of the park is by saddle-pony or on foot over the park trails. Owing to the limited size of the park, all points of interest are within a day's ride of the townsite, where horses may be hired. Among the most popular excursions is that to Bertha Lake, which is beautifully located in a cirque high on the slopes of Mount Alderson. The trail zig-zags up the side of the mountain by switchbacks past several falls, and then circles the lake. The waters of the lake, of a vivid emerald shade, combine with the darker green of forests and the red-streaked slopes of the surrounding peaks to form a striking picture.

Crypt Lake, situated at the head of Hell Roaring Canyon, is another favourite objective for anglers and riders. Other fine trails lead up Blakiston and Bauerman Brooks to Twin Lakes and South Kootenay Pass; to Carthew Lakes; and to the summits of Vimy Peak and Sofa Mountain. Shorter hikes include those to Lake Linnet, the golf links, and Bear's Hump on Mount Crandell.

Motor Drives in the Park

Several fine outings also may be enjoyed over the park roads. The Akamina Highway

provides a spectacular 10-mile drive up Cameron Creek Valley to Cameron Lake. Cameron Lake is one of the best fishing points in the park, and boats and bungalow camp accommodation are available. Red Rock Canyon, about 12 miles from Waterton Park Village, also is well worth a visit, and may be reached by road up Blakiston Brook. The canyon has been formed by the action of waters which have cut through soft shales of a vivid reddish colour.

The Canadian section of the Chief Mountain International Highway leads through the picturesque valley of the Belly River to the International Boundary and Glacier National Park. As the boundary is approached, the striking outline of Chief Mountain—from which the highway takes its name—comes into view.

Fauna and Flora

As a sanctuary for wild life, Waterton Lakes National Park contains many species of big and small game native to the Canadian Rockies. Rocky Mountain sheep, mule or black-tailed deer, and black bear are quite numerous, and elk, Rocky Mountain goat, white-tailed deer, moose, and grizzly bear are not uncommon. The hoary marmot or "whistler," porcupine, beaver, and several varieties of squirrel are also found in the park. Bird life is also prolific and interesting.

To the botanist and lover of nature, the trees, flowers, and plants are of special interest, for within the park the mountain flora and prairie flora meet. Douglas fir, balsam fir, Engelmann and white spruce, aspen, and Lyall's or alpine larch are among the species of trees which flourish in the park. Shrubs are abundant, and wild flowers bloom in a profusion of colour from early spring until autumn.





The "Great Divide" of the Rockies in Kicking Horse Pass

YOHO NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

YOHO NATIONAL PARK in British Columbia embraces some of the most remarkable scenic regions in the Canadian Rockies. It lies west of the continental divide, adjoining Banff and Kootenay National Parks, and its area of 507 square miles presents scenes of surpassing alpine grandeur. The mountains, particularly along the divide, rise to tremendous heights, and many are topped the year round by ice and snow.

Outstanding, too, is the splendour of its valleys. Some are set with lakes that sparkle like jewels of unbelievable colour. Others are coursed by tumbling streams or draped with filmy waterfalls that have their source in glaciers which lie high up on the mountain walls. To the Indian, the word "Yoho" meant "It is wonderful," and the beauty of the region fully justifies the name.

Like Banff, Yoho National Park owes its existence to the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which follows the Kicking Horse River through the park from east to west. Shortly after the completion of the railway in 1885, a small area of 10 square miles in the vicinity of Field was set aside to preserve the surrounding forests and scenery. Further additions have increased the area of the park to its present dimensions. The Kicking Horse River derived its name from an accident suffered by Sir James Hector, its discoverer, who explored the region in 1858.

How to Reach the Park

Yoho National Park is accessible both by railway and motor highway. The Canadian Pacific Railway threads its way along the steep slopes of the Kicking Horse Valley, and overcomes the severe grades on the west slope of the Rockies by the use of spiral tunnels which have been constructed through Mounts Cathedral and Ogden on either side of the valley. The main stations are located at Field and at Hector, on Wapta Lake.

The Trans-Canada Highway No. 1 also traverses the park from east to west through the Kicking Horse Valley, and provides access from Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper on the east, and Golden, Revelstoke, and other points to the west.

The "Big Bend" section of the Trans-Canada Highway from Revelstoke to Golden provides a remarkable scenic drive of 193 miles along the historic Columbia River. From Golden, the highway follows the Kicking Horse River eastward through the park.

From the south, visitors may approach Yoho National Park over Provincial Highway No. 4 to Golden, and thence eastward along Highway No. 1 to the park entrance at Leanchoil. An alternative route is by way of the Banff-Windermere Highway through Kootenay National Park to Banff National Park and thence west over Trans-Canada Highway No. 1.



Park Townsite and Headquarters

The administration of Yoho Park, as well as that of Kootenay, Glacier, and Mount Revelstoke National Parks, is carried out by a superintendent whose office and residence are situated in the town of Field. Field lies at the base of Mount Stephen in the Kicking Horse Valley, and forms a centre for a system of roads and trails which lead to most of the outstanding points of interest. The town contains stores, churches, restaurants, hotel, service stations, and transportation services for motor and trail trips. The superintendent's office also serves as a bureau of information for visitors, where literature and maps are available.

Yoho National Park is a summer resort only. The tourist season extends approximately from May 15 to October 15.

Accommodation

Excellent tourist accommodation is provided in Yoho Park by chalets or bungalow lodges operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Emerald Lake, Lake O'Hara, Wapta Lake, and in Yoho Valley. All these points are accessible by highway or trail from Field. Limited accommodation is also provided by a small hotel and the Y.M.C.A. in Field, and a bungalow cabin camp is operated on the main highway four miles east of Field.

Visitors carrying their own camping equipment are accommodated at public campgrounds situated on the Trans-Canada Highway at points one mile west of Field; four miles east of Field, and near Chancellor Peak, 16 miles west of Field.

The Kicking Horse Trail

The Kicking Horse Trail, as the main road through the park is called, provides a remarkable scenic drive of about 35 miles, and gives access to side roads leading to Emerald Lake and Yoho Valley. Entering the park from the east, the road crosses the Great Divide at the summit of Kicking Horse Pass, and passes beneath a huge wooden arch marking the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia. A few miles farther on the route skirts Wapta Lake, headwaters of the Kicking Horse River, which is a favoured fishing spot. Wapta Lake Lodge on the north shore offers fine accommodation, and also forms a starting point for trail trips to Lake O'Hara and Sherbrooke Lake.

From the western end of Wapta Lake the route of the highway follows the old Canadian Pacific Railway grade, which was abandoned when the famous spiral tunnels were completed in 1910. Clinging to the lower slopes of Mount Cathedral, the highway provides magnificent views of two great valleys, the Yoho to the north, and the Kicking Horse straight ahead.

Top—Lower Canyon of Kicking Horse River
Centre—Lake O'Hara from Abbot Pass
Bottom—Yoho Valley Lodge (C.P.R. Photo)

to the west. Skirting the base of Mount Stephen, the highway passes the entrance to the Yoho Valley, crosses the Kicking Horse River, and follows the latter along the base of Mounts Field and Burgess to the Town of Field.

From Field the highway continues west past the Natural Bridge, then swings abruptly south to follow the valley of the Kicking Horse River almost to its junction with the Beaverfoot. Opposite Chancellor Peak, about 16 miles from Field, the route again turns west, and, passing Leanchoil Station, reaches the park boundary where a registration office is located. From this point the spectacular lower canyon of the Kicking Horse River is followed to Golden, a distance of about 16 miles.

Lake O'Hara

Reached by a fine trail from Wapta Lake or Hector Station, Lake O'Hara rivals Lake Louise in claim to beauty. Although less than a mile long and half a mile wide, its wonderful colouring and perfect setting have been an inspiration to artists from the world over. Its blue-green waters, fed by melting glaciers, mirror the giant peaks that rise almost sheer from the spruce-clad shores. On the eastern side are Seven Sisters Falls, which tumble from Lake Oesa, hidden on a rocky bench beneath Mount Lefroy.

Lake O'Hara Lodge and its well-appointed bungalows provide fine accommodation for visitors wishing to explore the trails and mountains of the region. Trout abound in the lake, and boats are available at the Lodge. Lake O'Hara is also a centre for alpine climbers, and the Alpine Club of Canada maintains a hut nearby.

The Yoho Valley

The 11-mile trip from Field to the Yoho Valley provides one of the finest outings in the park. After skirting Mounts Burgess and Field, the route turns off the Kicking Horse Trail to the Valley Road at a point four miles from Field. Soon appears the "meeting of the waters," where the Yoho River joins the Kicking Horse in a leaping cascade. A little farther on the valley walls rise abruptly and the river roars through a narrow canyon.

Then comes the "switchback," where the road zig-zags up the grade in three sharp turns, to follow the base of Mount Wapta through virgin forests of spruce and balsam. Soon to meet the eye is Takakkaw Falls, which appears to drop out of the sky. This waterfall has its source in the Daly Glacier high on Mount Niles, and falls nearly 1,800 feet before it tumbles into the Yoho River.

Facing the falls, in a grove of spruce, is Yoho Valley Lodge and adjacent bungalow



Top—Seven Sisters Falls

Centre—Takakkaw Falls (C.P.R. Photo)

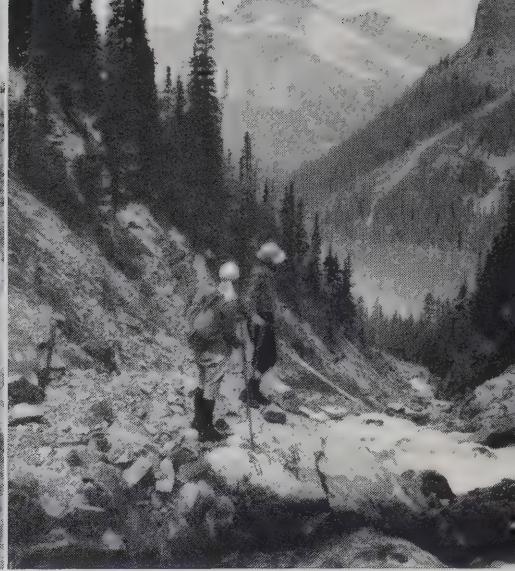
Bottom—Lake O'Hara Lodge and Bungalows



Lake Wapta from Hector Station



The Natural Bridge



Hikers Near Lake O'Hara

cabins. The road ends within a short distance of the Lodge, but a trail leads up the valley to Twin Falls and Yoho Glacier, skirting Laughing and Bridal Veil Falls on the way to Twin Falls tea-house. The return may be made over the spectacular High-Line Trail, built along the slope of President Range, 1,500 feet above the valley floor.

Emerald Lake and Natural Bridge

Another delightful trip brings the visitor to Emerald Lake, which is situated about 7 miles northwest of Field. The approach is made by a long straight stretch known as Snowpeak Avenue. Emerald Lake owes much of its beauty to the colour of its waters, said to reveal as many as twenty shades of green. It lies in a

green forest beneath towering Mount Burgess, flanked on the north by the peaks of the President Range.

Nestling among the evergreens is Emerald Lake Chalet and bungalows, one of the finest hosteries in the region. Here the visitor may enjoy boating and fishing, riding and hiking, or mere relaxation in sylvan surroundings. On the return trip a detour may be made to take in the Natural Bridge, where the Kicking Horse River boils beneath a rocky formation which all but blocks the course of the stream.

From Emerald Lake the visitor may ride or hike across Yoho Pass to the Yoho Valley. This trip, about five miles in length, skirts Yoho Lake on the summit of the pass, and provides remarkable views of the Yoho Valley.





The Park Gateway at Radium Hot Springs

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK in British Columbia is unique among Canada's Mountain Playgrounds. It was established in 1920 to preserve forever the natural beauty of the landscape along the route of the Banff-Windermere Highway, the first motor road constructed across the central Rockies, and is, in reality, a national highway park. The park extends approximately five miles on each side of the highway for a distance of about 60 miles, and contains an area of 587 square miles.

Situated on the western slope of the Rockies, Kootenay National Park contains, in addition to its mountain scenery, a number of other remarkable features. These include several deep canyons, waterfalls, an iceberg lake, and hot mineral springs. Wild life is abundant in the park, and species of big game often observed from the highways and trails include bighorn sheep, mule deer, and moose. The lower slopes of the valleys are well forested, and spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, aspen, and black poplar are the predominating species.

The park is divided roughly by the valleys of the Vermilion and Kootenay Rivers, which form an ideal avenue for travel. In fact, a portion of the route now followed by the Banff-Windermere Highway was first investigated by Sir James Hector of the Palliser expedition in 1858. Hector ascended the eastern slope of the Rockies from the Bow Valley, discovered Vermilion Pass, and followed the Vermilion River south to the Kootenay before turning westward to reach the Kicking Horse River.

Earlier still was the visit of Sir George Simpson in 1841. On his journey round the world, Simpson crossed the Rockies by way of Simpson Pass, and descending the Simpson, Vermilion, and Kootenay Rivers, eventually reached the Columbia River Valley. In his narrative of the journey, Simpson records travelling through a chasm known as the Red Rock, through which boiled a mountain torrent, and whose almost perpendicular walls rose to a height of more than 1,000 feet. The passage accurately describes what is now known as Sinclair Canyon, at the western portal of the park.

Ways of Approach

Kootenay National Park adjoins Banff and Yoho National Parks on the northeast and northwest respectively, and the three park units are interconnected by motor highway. The Banff-Windermere Highway (1B) traverses the park from north to south and links the Trans-Canada Highway (No. 1) with British Columbia Highway No. 4. Connection is thus provided with Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks on the north, and Cranbrook, Kingsgate, and points in the United States to the south. Situated on the International Boundary, Kingsgate is a popular port of entry from the United States, and the terminus of U.S. Highway No. 95.

An approach from Glacier National Park, Montana, may be made through Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, and thence via



Sinclair Canyon

Highways 6 and 3 to Cranbrook, connecting with British Columbia Highway No. 4 to Radium Hot Springs. From Golden on the west, approach may be made southeast over Highway No. 4 to Radium Hot Springs.

The Park Townsite

The little townsite of Radium Hot Springs forms a centre for park activities. It is situated in the narrow valley of Sinclair Creek, about two miles within the southeastern boundary of the park, and contains hotel and bungalow camp accommodation, stores, post office, garage, and service station. Nearby is the park gateway building, built in the form of a huge arch astride the highway, which contains registration office, information bureau, and rest rooms for visitors. Just inside the gateway is the Government bath-house and swimming

Page 26

The Banff-Windermere Highway

pool. The administration of the park is directed from Field, and the local administration is carried out by officers resident at Radium Hot Springs.

An excellent view of the townsite, park gateway building, and swimming pool may be obtained from points along a trail which is located on the lower slopes of Redstreak Mountain above Sinclair Creek. A tennis court, situated near the swimming pool, is available to visitors.

Accommodation

Accommodation in the park is provided by two small hotels and two bungalow cabin camps at Radium Hot Springs, and bungalow cabin camps at Kootenay Flats, Vermilion Crossing, and Marble Canyon on the Banff-Windermere Highway. The largest hostelry, Radium Hot Springs Lodge, has a large central building containing lounge and dining room, and 24 cabin units.

A public camp-ground, equipped with electric light, running water, shelters, and other conveniences, is available to visitors at Radium Hot Springs, and a number of other campgrounds, less completely equipped, are situated at strategic points along the park highway.

The Hot Mineral Springs

Among the park's chief attractions are the bath-house and outdoor swimming pool at Radium Hot Springs. The pool is fed by hot mineral springs which have a temperature of 114° Fahr. where they issue from the rocks. Among the hottest on the continent, the waters are believed by many to have curative properties, and have been used by Indians, settlers, and others since the earliest days of exploration. The use of the bath-house, which contains dressing-rooms and showers, together with the pool, may be had on payment of a nominal fee. Bathing suits and towels are also available at a small additional charge.

Points of Interest

Many points of interest in the park are easily accessible from the Banff-Windermere Highway. This road provides a delightful drive

The Bath-house and Pool, Radium Hot Springs



of about 71 miles from its junction with Columbia Valley Highway No. 4 to Castle Mountain in Banff National Park, where it merges with Highway No. 1.

About a mile west of Radium Hot Springs the highway enters Sinclair Canyon—a narrow notch in the mountain wall—which is one of the most spectacular in the Rockies. Its sides rise almost perpendicularly above the rushing waters of Sinclair Creek, and the road passes at points beneath overhanging crags. A striking feature, too, is the brilliant red colouring of the rocky walls, which is characteristic of the region.

Half a mile east of Radium Hot Springs the highway cuts along the base of another sheer wall and passes the so-called "Iron Gates," a second and wider portal formed by towers of red rock on either side of the valley. Topping Sinclair Pass, the road descends into the valley of the Kootenay River which is followed for about 15 miles to Kootenay Crossing.

After crossing the Kootenay River the highway ascends a low divide, then descends into the Vermilion River Valley. A few miles farther on the Vermilion is joined by the Simpson River, which flows in from the northeast. Nearby, at the roadside, a stone cairn and bronze tablet have been erected to commemorate the public services of Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1821 to 1860.

About five miles ahead the highway reaches Vermilion Crossing, where a bungalow cabin camp and gas station are located. From this point the Vermilion River is followed northward past Marble Canyon to Vermilion Pass, which marks the boundary between Kootenay and Banff National Parks.

Another natural wonder in the park is Marble Canyon, reached by a short path which leads from the highway about 55 miles east of Radium Hot Springs. This narrow rocky gorge, which is nearly 2,000 feet long, has been cut through the limestone strata by the waters of Tokumm Creek to a depth of 200 feet. In

"Red Rock" Camp-ground



The "Iron Gates"

places are visible layers of white and grey marble from which the canyon derives its name. A natural bridge of rock, and a 70-foot waterfall add interest to the spectacle which may be viewed from rustic bridges built at convenient points over the canyon.

Trails lead from the Banff-Windermere Highway to interesting places. Floe Lake, accessible by a five-mile trail up Floe Creek, is dotted in summer with small icebergs which become detached from Floe Glacier. Of interest also are the "Paint Pots" or ochre springs situated about two miles from Marble Canyon. The vermillion pigment once used by Indians of the district to paint their faces was obtained by roasting the ochre. Other trails lead up the valleys and over the passes into Yoho and Banff National Parks.

Olive Lake in Sinclair Pass





The Swiss Peaks from Tupper Glacier

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, British Columbia, is one of the most primitive yet one of the most beautiful of all national parks in Canada. It contains an area of 521 square miles in the heart of the Selkirk Mountains, which lie west of the Rockies within the great northern bend of the Columbia River. A region of immense peaks, many of which rise to heights of more than 10,000 feet, of ice-fields, glaciers, deep canyons, and verdant valleys, the park presents attractions that appeal particularly to alpinists, naturalists, and lovers of nature.

It has been said of the Selkirk Mountains that "no snows are so white as the Selkirk snows, no clouds so radiant, no forests so darkly, beautifully green." While the average height of the peaks is less than that of the Rockies, the richness of the flora, contrasted with the abundance of ice and snow, forms a combination that is particularly beautiful. The extensive glaciated areas are caused by the great altitude of the mountains and the phenomenally heavy annual snowfall which sometimes exceeds 40 feet.

The lower slopes, which are densely forested with growths of giant cedar, fir, spruce, and hemlock, are scored in places from avalanches that occur during the winter months. The upper slopes, high passes, and alplands are dotted with myriads of wild flowers, which bloom in a riot of colour. Wild life is abundant and includes black and grizzly bear, goat, deer, and marmot, as well as numerous birds.

Glacier National is the only national park in Canada served exclusively by railway, since no motor roads span its rugged terrain. The park is crossed by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and visitors may detrain at Glacier Station, at the western end of the famous Connaught Tunnel. There is no regular hotel or bungalow camp accommodation, but camping is permitted on designated camp-sites. Resident park officers, stationed at Glacier and other points, will furnish information concerning camp-sites, and trails to various points of interest. The park is administered from Field, the headquarters of Yoho National Park.

One of the outstanding features of the park is the Illecillewaet Glacier, reached by trail from Glacier Station. This gigantic mass of ice falls more than 3,500 feet from the "neve" or snow-field which is almost ten square miles in area. Seen from the trail, it gleams through the green forest, and although three miles distant appears close at hand. In spite of the enormous snowfall, it is, in common with other glaciers, gradually retreating.

Another interesting trail leads to the outlook on Mount Abbott, 7,720 feet above sea level. From this vantage point one may look down on the Illecillewaet Glacier, with its deep crevasses, seracs, and tumbled masses of moraine, as well as across the deep valley of the Illecillewaet River towards Rogers Pass. Halfway up the mountain the trail passes Marion Lake, a tiny tarn set in evergreens.



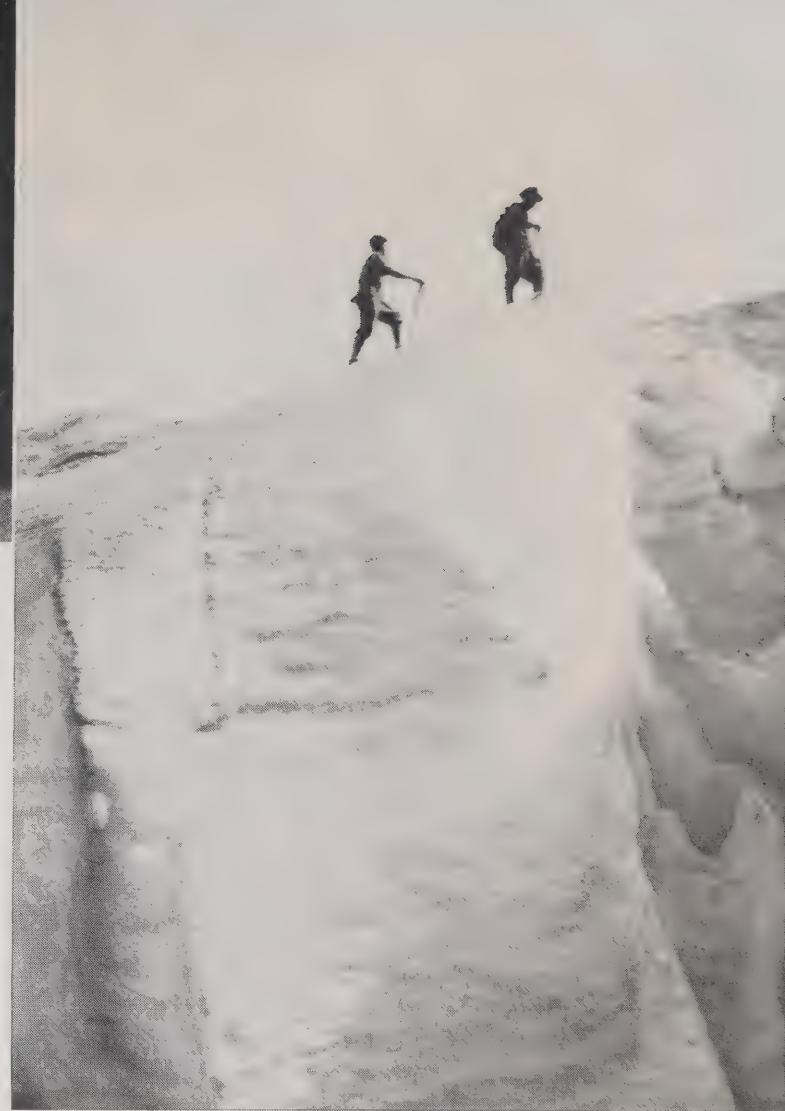
Marion Lake on Mount Abbott

Beautiful, too, is the Asulkan Valley, richly wooded, and almost musical with the sound of tumbling waters. The trail branches off that leading to Illecillewaet Glacier, and winds up the valley of Asulkan Brook through a thick forest. Frequently through openings in the trees the rocky walls of Mount Abbott, The Rampart, The Dome, and the snowy heights of Castor and Pollux come into view.

These snow-capped peaks are the fountain-heads of a series of cataracts that fall in silvery spray down the mountain side, and over the precipitous ledges to the streams below. At one point seven individual falls may be counted. The valley takes its name from "asulkan," which is the Indian for "wild goat."

Another popular trail leads up Cougar Valley and east over Balu Pass to Bear Creek and Rogers Pass, returning to Glacier Station. Rogers Pass, named after Major A. B. Rogers, its discoverer, was the original route of the railway over the summit of the Selkirks, but the severe grades, and heavy cost of maintaining snow sheds to protect the line from avalanches, led to the construction of the Connaught Tunnel through Mount Macdonald. Completed in 1916, the tunnel is five miles long, and contains a double track located more than a mile below the summit of the mountain.

Glacier National Park is also a paradise for mountain climbers, and the Alpine Club of Canada, which fosters climbing under supervision, frequently holds its annual camp in the park. The Selkirk Mountains, which are ages older than the Rockies, present a continual challenge to the experienced alpinist, and many of the glacier-hung peaks have served as graduating climbs for club membership. Among the most famous peaks are Mount Sir Donald (10,818 feet), Mount Wheeler (11,033 feet), Mount Dawson (11,123 feet), Mount Bonney (10,194 feet), Mount Rogers (10,546 feet), and Mount Tupper (9,239 feet).



A Crevasse in Illecillewaet Glacier

Mount Macdonald and Rogers Pass



MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE "TOP OF THE WORLD" might well be a description of Mount Revelstoke National Park in British Columbia. Situated literally above the clouds at a general elevation of 6,000 feet above sea level, the park occupies the broad undulating plateau that forms the summit of Mount Revelstoke. It lies on the western slope of the Selkirk Mountains, between the valleys of the mighty Columbia River on the west and the rushing Illecillewaet on the south, and contains an area of 100 square miles.

The landscape is truly alpine in character. Its rolling alplands are adorned with countless evergreens, tiny lakes occupy the rocky hollows chiselled out by ancient glaciers, and wild flowers grow in the open meadows in riotous, colourful profusion. Mountain heather also blooms in shades of rose and white, and deer, caribou, bear, grouse, and other species of wild life present fascinating subjects for photography and nature study.

The park is reached from the town of Revelstoke by a spectacular road which ascends the southern slopes of the mountain by easy grades and switchbacks. It passes through virgin stands of cedar, spruce, fir and hemlock, and in a distance of 18 miles rises more than 4,000 feet to an elevation of 6,350 feet. In places the road skirts the edge of the mountain, and lookout points along the way provide magnificent vistas of the broad Columbia Valley and the surrounding mountain ranges.

At the summit of the mountain is a lookout station and shelter where visitors may rest and



Near the Summit of Mount Revelstoke Road

enjoy the broad panoramas which extend in all directions. To the north looms the Clachnacudain Range, at the crest of which lies a wide snow-field, cut up into many sections by separating rock ridges.

Across the Columbia to the southwest stands triple-peaked Mount Begbie, dominating the surrounding peaks of the Monashee Range, and below in the very shadow of the mountain is the town of Revelstoke, occupying a wide picturesque flat at the junction of the Illecillewaet and Columbia Rivers. Also to the west is Eagle Pass, utilized by the Trans-Canada Highway and the Canadian Pacific Railway in their passage through the mountains to the Pacific Coast.

Trails from the lookout station lead to several points of interest. Near the summit is

Page 30

Heather Lake and Clachnacudain Range



White Heath and Indian Hellebore





Ski-ing on Mount Revelstoke

the "Ice Box," a natural phenomenon that claims the attention of visitors. A great cleft in the rock strata, it contains, even in mid-summer, quantities of ice and snow.

A four-mile hike takes the visitor to Lakes Eva and Miller, crystal pools of pale green water which reflect the surrounding trees, rocks, and mountains. The trail skirts the Columbia Valley, and passes through alpine meadows literally carpeted with wild flowers. Both lakes are well stocked with cutthroat trout, and at Lake Eva a shelter, equipped with camp-stove, is available to hikers and fishermen. Jade Lake, an emerald pool in a rugged mountain setting, is also accessible by trail.

Revelstoke is a noted winter sports centre, and the slopes of Mount Revelstoke, under heavy falls of powdery snow, provide unex-

celled opportunities for downhill ski-ing. Several world's records, both amateur and professional, have been established on the famous Revelstoke ski-jumping hill. A down-hill course and a slalom hill, which have been laid out on the southern slopes of the mountain, are extensively used in winter.

Accommodation in the park is provided by Heather Lodge, a small chalet located at the summit near the end of the motor road. It has accommodation for about 20 persons, and is open in summer and winter. Near the summit, in a grove of evergreens on the shores of Balsam Lake, a public camp-ground, complete with camp-stoves and shelters, is also available to visitors. Good hotel and bungalow cabin accommodation also may be obtained in Revelstoke.

The administration of Mount Revelstoke National Park is carried out by a superintendent whose office is located in Field, headquarters of Yoho National Park. A park officer, who resides in Revelstoke, visits the park daily and will furnish information on request. Information concerning the park also may be obtained at the Revelstoke Information Bureau.

Revelstoke is on the main transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway which provides a daily service east and west. Revelstoke is also situated on Provincial Highway No. 1, which forms part of the Trans-Canada Highway from Vancouver to Banff and points east. An approach from the south by highway may also be made via Nelson, Nakusp, and Arrowhead, with the aid of the Arrow Lakes ferry service.

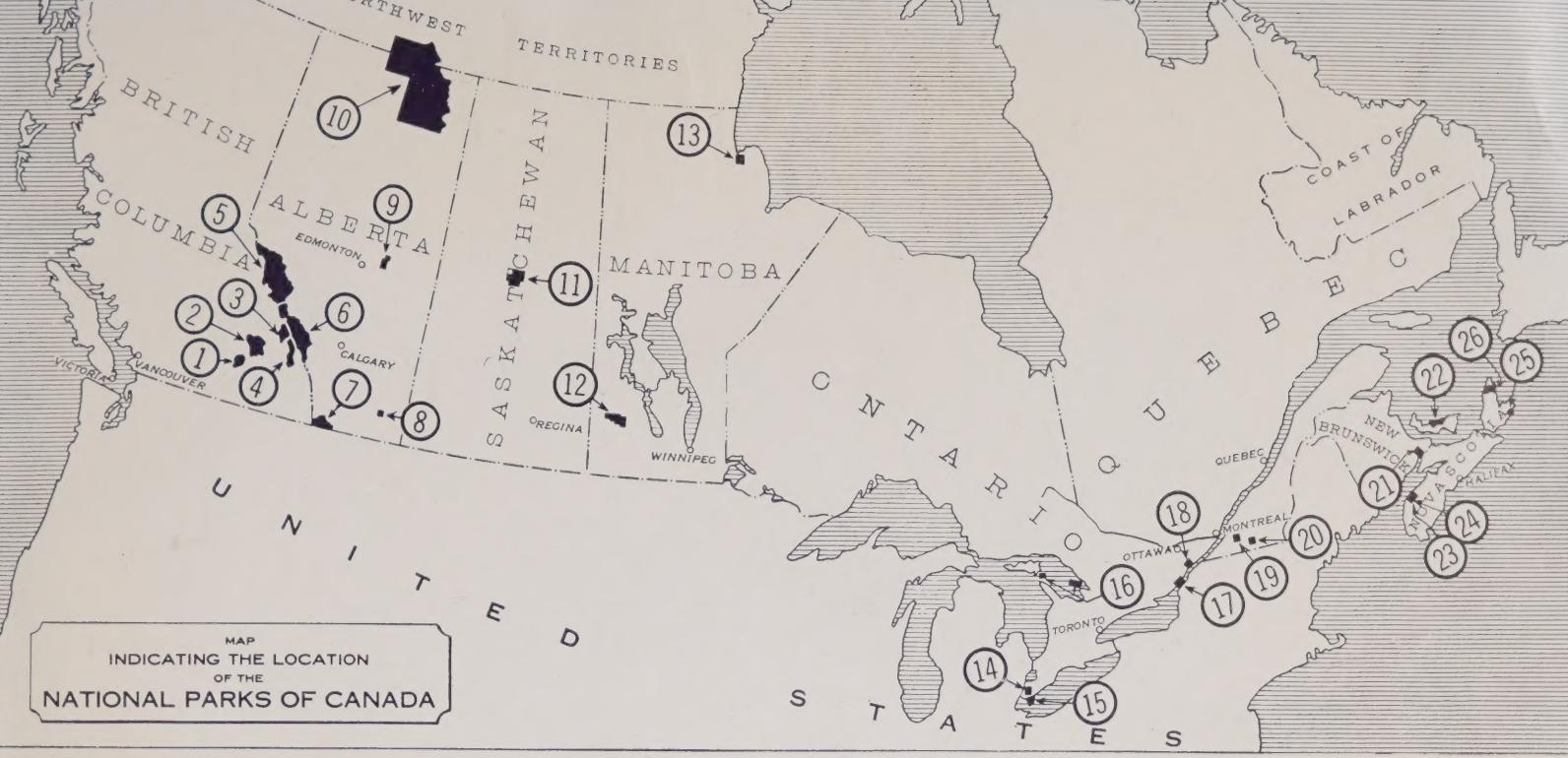
Revelstoke also forms the western terminus of the "Big Bend" section of the Trans-Canada Highway, which was opened for travel in 1940. This stretch, between Revelstoke and Golden, follows the Columbia River around its great northern bend, and provides a spectacular drive of 193 miles through an almost primeval mountain region.

Angling in Miller Lake



Revelstoke and the Columbia River





THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA

1. **MOUNT REVELSTOKE, British Columbia.** Rolling mountain-top plateau on west slope of the Selkirk Mountains. Accessible by motor road. Established 1914; area, 100 square miles.
2. **GLACIER, British Columbia.** Superb alpine region in heart of Selkirk Mountains. Snow-capped peaks, glaciers, luxuriant flora. Established 1886; area, 521 square miles.
3. **YOHO, British Columbia.** On west slope of Rockies. High peaks, beautiful lakes. Yoho and Kicking Horse Valleys. Established 1886; area, 507 square miles.
4. **KOOTENAY, British Columbia.** Encloses Vermilion-Sinclair section of Banff-Windermere Highway in Rockies. Broad valleys, deep canyons, hot mineral springs. Established 1920; area, 587 square miles.
5. **JASPER, Alberta.** Immense playground and game sanctuary. Majestic peaks, ice-fields, beautiful lakes, and famous resort, Jasper. Summer and winter sports; golf. Established 1907; area, 4,200 square miles.
6. **BANFF, Alberta.** Magnificent scenic playground in central Rockies. Noted resorts, Banff and Lake Louise. Summer and winter sports centre; golf; big game sanctuary. Established 1885; area, 2,585 square miles.
7. **WATERTON LAKES, Alberta.** Canadian section, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Mountain playground with colourful peaks, varied flora and fauna; golf. Established 1895; area, 220 square miles.
8. **NEMISKAM, Alberta.** Fenced preserve for pronghorned antelope. Reserved 1915; Established 1922; area, 8.5 square miles.
9. **ELK ISLAND, Alberta.** Fenced preserve containing large herd of buffalo; also deer, elk, and moose. Recreational and camping resort; golf. Reserved 1906; established 1913; area, 51.2 square miles.
10. **WOOD BUFFALO, Alberta, and N.W.T.** Immense region of forests and open plains west of Slave River between Athabasca and Great Slave Lakes. Large herd of buffalo and other big and small game. Established 1922; area, 17,300 square miles.
11. **PRINCE ALBERT, Saskatchewan.** Forested lakeland interlaced with numerous streams. Summer resort and recreational area; golf. Established 1927; area, 1,869 square miles.
12. **RIDING MOUNTAIN, Manitoba.** Playground and game preserve on summit of Manitoba escarpment. Summer resort and recreational area; golf. Established 1929; area, 1,148 square miles.
13. **FORT PRINCE OF WALES, Manitoba.** National Historic Park at Churchill. Ruins of fort built 1733-71 by English to control Hudson Bay. Established 1941; area, 50 acres.
14. **FORT MALDEN, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Amherstburg. Defence post built by English, 1797-99 on Detroit River. Established 1941; area, 3 acres.
15. **POINT PELEE, Ontario.** Recreational area on Lake Erie, with fine beaches and unique flora. Resting point for migratory birds. Established 1918; area, 6.04 square miles.
16. **GEORGIAN BAY ISLANDS, Ontario.** Thirty islands in Georgian Bay. Unique formations on Flowerpot Island. Recreational area. Established 1929; area, 5.37 square miles.
17. **ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS, Ontario.** Mainland area, and thirteen islands in "Thousand Islands" group, with recreational facilities. Reserved 1904; established 1914; area, 185.6 acres.
18. **FORT WELLINGTON, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Prescott. Defence post built on St. Lawrence River 1812-13. Established 1941; area 8 1/2 acres.
19. **FORT CHAMBLY, Quebec.** National Historic Park with museum at Chambly Canton. Fort built by French 1665 on Richelieu River; rebuilt 1709-11. Established 1941; area, 2 1/2 acres.
20. **FORT LENNOX, Quebec.** National Historic Park with museum on Ile-aux-Noix, Richelieu River, near St. Johns. Fortifications built 1812-27 by English. Established 1941; area, 210 acres.
21. **FORT BEAUSÉJOUR, New Brunswick.** National Historic Park, with museum near Sackville. Site of French fort erected 1751-55. Established 1926; area, 59 acres.
22. **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.** Strip 25 miles long on north shore of island province. Recreational area with fine beaches; golf. Established 1937; area, 7 square miles.
23. **PORT ROYAL, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park at Lower Granville. Restoration of the "Habitation" or first fort built 1605 by Champlain and De Monts. Established 1941; area, 17 acres.
24. **FORT ANNE, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum at Annapolis Royal. Fort associated with early Acadian history. Established 1917; area, 31 acres.
25. **FORTRESS OF LOUISBOURG, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum near Louisburg. Ruins of walled city erected by the French 1720-40. Established 1941; area, 339 1/2 acres.
26. **CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Nova Scotia.** Rugged Cape Breton Island coastline with mountain background. Fine seascapes from highway; golf. Established 1936; area, 390 square miles.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Lands, Parks and Forests Branch

NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU

OTTAWA, CANADA

CANADA'S MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUNDS



**BANFF, JASPER, WATERTON LAKES,
YOHO, KOOTENAY, GLACIER, AND
MT. REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARKS**